



FORTRESS ON A HILL

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SPEAKERS

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Danny Sjursen

So, well, I'm gonna hand it over to Henry, because we both know that you and I could go back and forth indefinitely. So Henry, why don't you take us forward a little bit?

Chris 'Henri' Henrikson

So we've recently seen the suspension of Bernie Sanders came in for President, as well as yesterday, when it was announced that Bernie had in fact endorsed Joe Biden for President. Bob, what is stuck out about you, excuse me stuck out to you about Sanders campaign. What do you think should be the next move of people who support him? And lastly, deep what path do you see to a viable third party in the US political system?

Robert "Bob" Scheer

You know, I'm very disappointed in what Sanders did because he didn't even wait to see what the platform would be. He didn't even wait to see who the vice presidential pick would be. And he knows of Biden's role in creating the the tragic domestic forget about foreign policy because he's got a lot of problems there. But but the whole banking meltdown, the whole foreclosure crisis, the Great Recession, Biden's fingerprints are all over. And, and he's not alone. Obviously, Bill Clinton, and then Brock Obama's bailout made the banks whole and didn't even do what Trump is doing now, which is increase unemployment insurance. So some of the governors are doing you can foreclose and throw people at it houses or you got to help them pay their rent. There was not a word of that from from and practice I mean, from Biden. At that time when he was vice president or from a Barack Obama, they took Lawrence Summers, who had been the Secretary of Treasury under Clinton was one of the main if not the main architect of the deregulation of Wall Street that created that whole scandal. So Bernie Sanders main issue has

been the economic wealth gap, the misery of ordinary Americans, the fact that real wages have not really increased in 40 years, the growing class divide in America and to embrace Biden without getting any concessions at all to the campaign. He's run. Why because we have a virus. And and with Biden, as I recall, the debate with Bernie Biden denied that we he, what did he say he would call out the military to deal with the virus. That was his great contribution. I assume he meant the more aggressive military than Trump has done. So I think Bernie failed us. First time I'm saying that I have great respect for him. I understand the burden of what he's done, but he's caved in to this lesser evil. What is it as a drug, the drug of lesser evilism, and I'm backing into this third party. part of your question. I think less realism is a great trap, a great trap. And just, you know, unless it means that people have power in this country, control, one monster which you have to run All Donald Trump was the creation of mass media. Right? And the Clintons even went to his wedding. And they thought he was fun and interesting and adorable. And the issues that he's played on, like immigration and so forth are issues that were left to fester, where the democrats were in charge a Republican, we never had a sane immigration policy ever. And because nobody wanted it to farmers didn't want it. The exploiters didn't want it to people who want to have cheap maize didn't want it. Politicians didn't want it. But you know, the fact the matter is you get this you get a Barry Goldwater. That was the one that got LBJ off the hook. You have a Richard Nixon, he got the democrats off the hook, you got Trump, and they're built up into these uncivilized monsters, and then you go with the lesser evil. Well, you know, the so called lesser evil created a lot of the problems that we're dealing with now. The surface To the prison industrial economy, you know, the all these people in jail, the millions have a lot to do with Biden and prison reform under under clinton, welfare reform, the destruction of the federal poverty program that a lot of things Democrats have to be held responsible for and Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren, to a considerable degree on the economic stuff was holding them accountable, I think for Bernie Sanders to get people all excited about his campaign once again, and not go that extra mile to at least take this fight to a Democratic Convention, however it's held and to demand concessions on the platform on the and the choice of a vice president and so forth. I just don't get it. I, you know, hesitant to put Bernie down I think he's fought the good fight, but it is deeply disappointing. But like should I ask you a question about the third party?

Chris 'Henri' Henrikson

Sure, yeah, go for. Yeah,

Robert "Bob" Scheer

I am worried about third party. Not that the two parties are going to do any better, but short of a major depression. Okay, let me answer a question that was raised before we got into this and some of the thoughts that Danny, connected with me, how do you get social change? And what is the role of electoral politics and so forth. And here I will draw upon my 84 years on this earth because I am old, I can remember from my childhood when I was 234 years old, that Roosevelt was not doing enough to get us out of the depression and This was already his second term. And the stuff that he was doing only became because you had the veterans marches. You had trade unions submerging the industrial unions. You had people protesting major Danny said I

was a red diaper, baby. Yes. My parents were union activists. My father had been a wobbly. He was something I then he was a social democrat. And then he flirted with a few months with communists or something. My mother was never that because she had come from the old Soviet Union, and she was in a group that oppose the Bolsheviks at the end, but should nonetheless, they were working class union people, and they would drag me as a little kid down to pick at the White House or something. And I can still remember a slogan open the second front, which meant us you get involved and the war against Hitler before you know the fall way after was already after the fall of France, but before England would fall and and on the economic issues, the Roosevelt did not solve the problems of the Great Depression. World War Two Did you know? And so we were really worried about food. Uh, you know, before the war came when the war in Europe came okay then they add to my parents went to work, you know making uniforms and everything and my half brother got, you know, into the Army Air Force and all that, you know, when people were signing up even early there, you know, there was dignity and jobs for working class people and patriotism or what have you. But we never really came to grips with the economic problems of depression, but we did set in motion certain ideas like Glass Steagall, which was break up the banks, which costs Bill Clinton then destroy the major economic achievement structurally of the Roosevelt years. But you know, we, you know, the good things that happened in terms of giving us some security. And some basis, as ronald reagan pointed out came from the New Deal and response to public pressure. Okay, not really third parties. Third parties have always had a hard time in America, because of the size of the country, the role of mass media, the ability of rich and powerful people to shape the narrative. So even Eugene Victor Debs, the candidate or the Socialist Party, who got a million votes, that's about as good as anyone has ever done. And that's a century ago. I'm more so. So I start to think about a third party. I think it's more important to think about people speaking up. challenging the narrative, demonstrations, grassroots movements, putting pressure on local policy. Titians. I think Governor Cuomo and Gavin Newsome are doing a much better job than some others because they come from states where there is an active progressive movement and actually controls a large part of the Democratic Party on the clubhouse level. And they are doing more of the right thing. And I think what you guys are doing is the right way rather than getting caught up in, you know, should we form a third party night you should just speak out there I say about the internet. It's the best and worst of all worlds, okay. Yes, people can be manipulated, they can be amused to death, they can be distracted. But the fact is, we're able to do this now with a very small capital investment. You know, I say, freedom of the press is guys, AJ Liebling, I quote him the famous Your critic for The New Yorker, freedom of the press is guaranteed only to those who own one well on the internet with a very small amount of capital, that the four of us can have an interesting discussion. I know I'm going on too long and too much. But you know, I thank you for letting me sound off. And and so the fact is, we have, as long as net neutrality is there as long as well, you know, Leonard Cohen said there's a crack in everything. That's how the light gets through the singer letter cone. You know, well, that's true, there are contradictions. The Internet right now has room for alternative voices. And that's why we're getting things you know, I had a pretty good run with TruthDig and other people, including major Danny and Chris Hedges who wrote for it and the wonderful people who edited it for 15 years and we were able to get a voice. Well, turns out I didn't really They own half of it, I guess.

And so it's no longer going to be the same thing. But there are others, you know, other publications and I noticed a popular resistance. And, Danny, I think you've written for the nation. So there are cracks in the system where you can get the word out and organize. And you know, I'm speaking about, Danny, I think you've had a tremendous, I mean, one person, you've had other allies and other people speaking out. But when you consider your productivity, and your ability to change the narrative and challenge thinking, I know it's had a big effect on my students. And on people I know, I think you've been kind of the major voice and daring, daring to challenge the war narratives, not the only one. But you certainly seize the reins and a bit out there. I don't know how often You're right, you're on the scene to write every other day, you know, always meaningful. It really is, you know, I know you're down on yourself every once in a while. I know it's not easy. pay your bills and everything. But you know, the fact that matter is, ah, you know, you guys, you're doing the right thing. I could be a trap to get too much caught up in electoral politics. We have money really talks. It's hard to get the word out there. Look what they did to Jill Stein, for instance, a wonderful person, medical doctor, sincere as they come. And the clinton people were able to make her seem like a potent agent, you know, potent agent, right? We got what back with the red baiting, neglecting the fact that Putin was the anti communist candidate selected by the US, CIA, his state department and everything else, to you know, to take over from yeltsin because he also was a hopeful hopeless drunk. And that's how you put in came to power in he embraced the Russian Orthodox Church and he's a great Russian nationalist. I don't mean a great nationalist, but he's great Russia, nationalists in sense of all their time zones. And, you know, that's what he is. He's like Castro is another nationalists and we can't abide anybody having their own view and challenging American hegemony. So he's demonized now, and anybody who goes who attends a function like Jill Stein did, where he's at all man, they must be a commie Asian only. He's not a commie. He's an anti commie. He defeated the communists and his elections and does every time there is a Communist Party is still there and he defeats them. And he was the one the flavor of the month that the US liked. Only he didn't march to our drummer, and now they demonize him. That's the been the whole history of the Cold War, with or without communists in power. Are you guys Oh, yeah. Are you okay?

Chris 'Henri' Henrikson

Hello.

Robert "Bob" Scheer

I know too much. But you know how I welcome the opportunity, but challenged me if I'm wrong. I mean, I'm not. You know, when major Danny has been in my class he doesn't let me get an A word edgewise. I don't know, what's going on here, Danny?

Danny Sjursen

Oh, well, you know, I like I'd like to try to let my co hosts ghost ask their questions that they could tell you that many times I dominate the entire space. So,

Robert "Bob" Scheer

again, stay as long as you want. And you can cut out all the earlier part. I don't give a damn. But you know, so tell me what you think.

Keagan Miller

Well, I just Yeah, I just wanted to say, you know, I totally agree with you Like, it really bothers me that we tend to look at when it comes to our politics. We always want to look at Savior, we want to look at that one person and say, you know, what, in terms of Trump want to say everything that's bad with America is because of Trump, you know, or which, again, like you said, allows Democrats to be off the hook really pisses me off to no end because it's like, yes, this is bad. But like, everything that we've done, has culminated in this moment, like Trump isn't the problem. He's the product of this system that we've created. And so in, you mentioned this in your podcast the other day, but also today, that we have the chance right now to change society for the better as far as we are exposing these really big flaws in our system, and we have the chance to really change them. But it could also become much more authoritarian. I mean, with whenever anybody talks About contract tracing. To me, that really bothers me because I worked in the intelligence community and we worked with metadata a lot. And that's how we knew, you know, when people were making phone calls, who they were talking to how to get ahold of them, their patterns of behavior, blah, blah, blah. And like, that kind of stuff freaks me out, because we already do use that to certain extent domestically, but like this virus just makes the opportunity for that kind of work even more dramatic, and that really scares me. So I'm just wondering, do you think that we could, instead of going that more authoritarian route, do you think that there are some significant changes we could make for the better?

Robert "Bob" Scheer

Yeah, I, I'm thinking about what you just said, because I think it's, it's the big truth out there is, most people think of individual freedom as a luxury. as something you could have, as long as it doesn't sacrifice their need for shelter, their sense of security, their acquisition of wealth. And so as long as it doesn't challenge those other things, ah, you know, then yes, we should have freedom and the core element and that means political freedom, you know, the right to dissent, the right to challenge and so forth. But that kind of political freedom. In every society people are quite willing in the main to sacrifice with with very, very minor reasons of security of instability is so forth. And the freedom that they want to hold on to is more of an illusion of freedom. They don't want the stormtroopers banging on their door. This was this Tension By the way, between a brave new world Huxley's book and Orwell's 1984, and brave new world was written before the war before the jackboots and, and then communism and Huxley was written after, I believe, 49 to 48 was when it was published. And at Huxley's is the overt totalitarian model. Huxley's was using information and loneliness and bribing us and consumerism and, you know, distracting us and gaining control of a say were two different models. And Huxley actually was asked by Orwell's publisher when 1984 came out, to comment on it, and he said that he understands why Huxley went with that overt totalitarian image, but he said he still thought his Brave New World consumerists softer totalitarianism would be the more dangerous effective one, because it's more effective. And I think we've seen that tension. We we know, we don't want stormtroopers. And we know, you know, we don't even really want torture. And when it's

when we're forced to look at it, well, we want to get walk away from it. And we don't really want a lot of people in jail, particularly if they look like us and have the same skin color and background, then we don't want to imprison everyone. And so the real struggle gets to be how can you take risk out of life? How can you provide order? How can you provide some sense of security? And what model of coercion is acceptable? Because there are risks in life. There are tensions of people don't have food, they're going to demonstrate. If the climate changes radically in this flooding, people are going to be upset. Boys create refugees and victims, and they have anger and what they have needs so that these stabilizes other societies. So I can go down the whole list of things that go awry. And and then the question is, do you think that freedom, political freedom, not consumer freedom, debates, challenging checks and balances, limitations on power are a way of not a luxury but a way of making government more efficient, more effective, right. That's what these reporters are relying on in questioning Trump aggressively. They hope the public will understand that holding powerful people accountable is necessary to efficiency however, powerful people can usually argue that holding them accountable gets in the way of efficiency, and that they can make the trains run on time. And that these other people are nuisances and get in the way. And unfortunately, the people have power when they can deliver a measure of order, and discipline and the trains run on time, usually went out. That's what happened in the most complex, advanced, individualistic society in a way of Germany between the wars. And the great mystery to me and always talking to my German notice is how did they go for this? Not all of them, but most of them kind of accepted. Right? Whether they were in the Nazi party or not, and I have found in traveling around the world, whatever society is called Most people go along with the totalitarian model, if it's delivering tranquility to them, if it's delivering a sense of order, if it's delivering material possessions, if it's giving them the basic necessities of life, and more toys, trinkets amusement, and so forth. And I think the endangered species in this world the most endangered is the notion of individual freedom. And and this real, meaningful sense of it. I don't mean the freedom to shop although shopping for books, it's an important freedom or choice of music or movies. Yes, I support and but in the main, the freedom to act to assemble for redress of grievances, to vote in meaningful elections to have your voice heard. And I suspect that's a small minority in this world that really wants that. fight for it, we'll support it. So at the heart of your question about basically, what are we to do is we have an uphill battle to convince people. That freedom makes us more effective as a society. For example, the wars that you guys fought in, if we had not wasted the enormous resources, both in lives and but actual wealth and productivity and so forth on those wars, as Donald Trump has pointed out, the the waste in Iraq could have supported a heck of a lot of improvement of education, job training, child care in this country. You know, and the fact that most of, you know, half of our discretionary federal budget budget is still spent on the military is all you really need to know. And now he is going to have a challenge. He says, He wants to build highways and do all this infrastructure. Lot's of luck getting that money. And it's going to be a lot more difficult than getting it for an increase in military spending, particularly if you have some war scene breakouts somewhere like China, seizing some Island, boom, but then you'll suddenly have the spigots wide open. So I think we should not get trapped in too much discussion about third party, second party, we should just find our voice and use whatever opportunity we have to have that voice heard. And it should be a voice of common

sense of decency of fairness. And, you know, I think, unfortunately, you had in the last election, a choice between a populace of the right and a populace of the left, and the populace of the left Bernie Sanders got destroyed by the Democratic Party machinery and to help Hillary Clinton Clinton machine, and the populace voice of the right, which is inherently a demagogic, racist, mean spirited voice of the kind that produces fascism that carried today, but at least it was a voice and remains a voice of concern about how ordinary people are hurting. You get Joe Biden running it, and he's only going to talk about the good old days under Obama. He ain't gonna make it. You know, because the good old days under Obama were not good for people who lost their homes, lost their jobs will have to settle for minimum wage jobs, because the good jobs have gone elsewhere. Okay. And if Biden is up there, just to tell you I want to bring back the glory days of Obama. He's going to lose in a very big way.

Keagan Miller

A lot of young organizations have said as much in there letters to him, and I yeah, I totally agree with you, but I I think there's an aspect of this, you know, if we are seeing the federal government's fail, or or at least not do its job, as well, as intended, we're seeing states start to pick up some of that slack. And I like I mean, Henry and I live in Portland area. And so, um, you know, that are three states here on the west coast, we're trying to do like this patch, to help deal with the corona virus but also helping open up our economies. And then I heard that the the, like, the North East is kind of doing the same thing. There's a couple of states in there that are trying to figure out their own kind of pack. So I don't feel like we can't just like put that genie back in the bottle once this thing is all over. So we're starting to come up with some new systems and some new ways of doing things that I think could really help at least those peoples in that region and then it's up To like us to say, Is this a good thing or is it not?

Robert "Bob" Scheer

Well, I think that's the way to go. I mean, even Trump has to defer that. The fact is, that's what our Constitution is all about. And you know, we've seen states rights use this in a reactionary way, obviously, with racial segregation and everything. But we are seeing it as an incubator of better ideas as an alternative, I think, you know, I would be very excited if Gavin Newsome were running for president. Because I really respect what he's been able to do in a short term in California, and educate the public. Keep a sense of balance, be concerned about homeless people as well as affluent people when it comes to the medical treatment. You know. I think we've seen some companies Out of other areas, and yes, and even Trump has to pay lip service to that. Because after all, that was what the Republican Party of late has so supposedly believed in, when it supports reactionary ideas and, you know, merging religion and state and everything, they get very excited about states rights, but I think you put your finger on it. And and on the local level, by the way, third parties could have a lot of influence. If he's talking about you know, because first of all, very often the mayor's races are nine partners and but even in statewide races, they can withdraw enough from one party to punish and for not taking a principal position. And I believe in local local. The problem is when local forgets that the international is local, you know, as you see it when a young person is taken off to war, whatever the basis of bribing them or rewarding them, you know, then it comes back in a body bag this

person or comes back to haunt you and injured veteran or, and then loss of resources or what have you. You know, I love the spirit of the Northwest frankly, my relatives up there live. I don't want to outlive them and get them trouble but they actually live close to where the Ku Klux Klan used to be in Medford Grants Pass down there. And but I love that spirit. And you have I don't know I want to go on a limb but I think he got pretty good senator there he was, was very good on the surveillance issues on whistleblowers. I think you know, there's always been a battle in the Northwest. This is probably not a tangent you really want to go on but I remember it. You remember scoop Jackson and Washington. Anybody know?

Danny Sjursen

Oh yeah, absolutely. Oh, yeah.

Robert "Bob" Scheer

Okay, so you remember that he was a real warmonger?

Danny Sjursen

Yeah. Big time. Cold warrior big. Yeah.

Robert "Bob" Scheer

Yeah. And he, but I spent time up there with him. This is before the state of Washington had gourmet restaurants. So the idea of a great meal was a piece of salmon that had been cooked and smoked so long ago, tasted like a piece of wood, you know, and, but nonetheless, it had a spirit, some of the parts of the Midwest a good part of the Midway, everybody forgets, I would, Idaho was where the wobblies word, you know, quarterly and also was where the right wing was. But that's spirit of challenge and and I'm really proud of California in that respect. I think we have, you know, we never had really a strong Democratic Party structure. We always had a grassroots movement. and so forth. And I think a nice doe three space that you mentioned, there really is a capacity for an alternative. And particularly, how do you bring security to people? And I'll tell you, let me give you a few good examples of the positive of the current moment. You know, and Donald Trump has been forced to embrace these ideas, because of his idea of getting us out of this economic you know, we're in a very dangerous moment, we could go off into the worst depression, and maybe the depression that would end everything, you know, because a lot of it is on expectation. And, and people start to think, Okay, get my money out of the market and sell anything and sell my house and get my cash supply and bury it out and my vegetable garden and at least I can buy some bread. The whole system collapses. It's all an illusion. The Federal Reserve is an illusion. The dollar is an illusion, you know, but illusions work as long as people buy into it, right? Federal Reserve is releasing trillions of dollars. Well, it's the same trillions that they used to buy up the lousy deaths from the banks to make them whole, you know, so they could be releasing these trillions to once again, make the banks whole. Well, banking earnings are coming in, and they're pretty damn good. So they don't they can't even justify that. Well, what we're seeing now is something that I have not seen since I was a kid and the Great Depression, okay. And what we're seeing now, is a tremendous wellspring of energy on this government because it's run by a billionaire, but really, it doesn't

matter who's in that they better not do it the same way they did it under Obama. You better not be spending all this money, a lot more money and not making At least a good number of us hold. Okay, and the decision to put in what is is \$600 more for the next four months of unemployment insurance? You know?

Keagan Miller

Yeah, that's it. 600

Robert "Bob" Scheer

Yeah. And that means, you know, I mean, I know a lot of my friends and relatives are going on it right now. Well, that means adding that to what in some states is what you wanted 300 400 that's giving you you know, a reasonable income that you can pay your rent and feed your family. That is one of the biggest, you know, if they have to extend it if we don't get better, and they extend that for nine months, we'll have one of the greatest income redistribution mechanisms that we've had. That In other words, you lose your job. And this finally they've got Oh, you lost your job. It's not your fault. You can't blame the virus on the workers, inefficiency or, you know, lack of enthusiasm or moral outlook. No, even Donald Trump has had to say front and center at every press conference, that the clerk in that grocery store, you know, working at Walmart, if they lose their job is not their fault if they're working for a small business, not their fault, and that we got in this bailout. And yes, there was good pressure from the Democrats. I'm not gonna take that away. But there was a 96 to nothing vote in the Senate to do the most socialistic thing that has ever happened in this country. Never in this country, as the United States Senate voted for this kind of income redistribution. Now. It's temporary. It's not enough. The crisis is very deep. A lot of people, despite these things that are being done, are going to be very deeply hurt. But I could say is certainly in my lifetime. We have not had this kind of redistribution. And the argument no people out of work, it's not their fault. And if they're homeless, it's not their fault. Suddenly, we have a different microscope we're looking through, you know, I think that's a big, big deal that should be built on, you know. So in California, for instance, Gavin Newsom, I know, the position to state is to be against eviction, and for closing, that was not done under Obama. I wrote columns about that, you know, a lot of other people did. I say, wait a minute. You don't even know who owns these mortgages. You don't know how they were sold. You don't know the deception. I mean, like Wells Fargo, where I've had my mortgages, they've been caught one crime after another. They don't even know what they were doing. And they were lying and stealing and cheating. And they've been caught on it and they pay fines. They're not alone. A lot of these banks, okay, so I wrote a column saying, Wait a minute, don't throw anybody Added House have a moratorium on mortgage foreclosures, don't throw anybody out because they can't pay the rent. You know, don't evict them. You know, maybe you subsidize the landlord if they're hurting, but you don't throw people that are their home because they didn't create this problem. Obama, Lauren summers who had what made 6 million a year from the shore, the hedge fund company before he was advising Obama, after he was secretary treasurer, Robert Rubin, who had been Clinton's first secretary treasurer. He went to work, right for Citi Bank, Citigroup, that was made illegal by the reversal of Glass Steagall, they made what you know 10 million a year or something I mean, incredible amount of

money for the very bank that he made legit that should have been put out of business, you know, and Obama listened to those people. Listen to those people and didn't help anybody stay in their homes. You know, whether renter or owner and we saw this incredible Black people in America. I don't know why is all this idea that black people should vote for the democrats under Obama. According to the Federal Reserve, black people were the hardest hit group because of the housing meltdown. And they lost between 60 and 70% of their family wealth, ground, people lost 60% of their wealth, not their annual income, everything their family had managed to gain through the life of that family, you know, all the gains of the Civil Rights Movement economically, were wiped out. You know, Obama presided over that listening to Lawrence Summers listening, you know, from the side to Robert Rubin. You know, it's incredible what happened. Okay, under this guy, we're all expected to hate Trump and yes, there is democratic pressure. Yes, it came also from Republicans. The fact is, the Senate voted 96 to nothing and the house went along, and the President signed off on a bill which it sure gives a lot of money to rich people, but for The first time it actually helps out many people who are struggling not enough, and not enough ways, but it helps them out, you know? And just so I'm fighting the virus, oh, suddenly Medicare for all, well, what are they doing? They're saying free tests, right? And if you have the illness, your health care is going to be covered if you can't afford it, and no co pays. Well, that's far more radical than what even Bernie Sanders was advocating, you know, boom, that's suddenly Wait a minute. That's socialized medicine. You know, why don't the people on msnbc at least say that's a victory? You know, it should be for every illness? Yes. should be for obesity should be for heart attack should be for everything. You know, that's universal health care. Because if we don't take care of the homeless person who's got the virus that's going to spread, just narrow self interest, says you should do that. Now. Why did it wait for Donald Trump? Do that, you know, why did it wait for this virus crisis? The big, most fearsome crisis we've ever experienced, domestically to do this, you know, but the fact of the matter is, they don't even acknowledge this is happening. And it's happening in other ways as well, you know, and for suddenly, social justice is in the air, and to answer your specific thing, what's happening in Oregon, Washington and California, and hopefully will happen in New York, and Connecticut and New Jersey, and so forth, is a demand from the so called more progressive democratic states, more progressive states that we go further than Trump is willing to do. You know, and that the recovery really rebuild schools and rebuild health care for poor people, neighborhood clinics, education, you know, helps ordinary people come back home From this terrible experience, so to answer your question, I think you've come up with the answer. I think that this alliance of so called progressives, let them really show how progressive they are, you know, and whether it's New York City, whether it's Oregon, and don't make this a feeding frenzy for already rich people, so they can buy more fancy homes outside of Portland. No, good. Let's just certainly don't want homelessness. Homelessness spreads illness, we know that you want can't say six feet apart when you're on 15 main and in Los Angeles, that's for sure. You know, and you can't contain it. The great lesson it is, is the virus takes only takes precedence that the virus doesn't discriminate. You know, the virus crosses borders, the virus knows all the languages, the virus could do that. And that's true of all Global warming or climate change, flooding, as true of poverty is true of all the consequences of neglect of the earth of our environment of our population. And so this is a great teaching moment. Yes. The lesson of this

plague is that we're all vulnerable. You can't build that gated community, that little island, you can take your yacht out, but where are you going to land it? It's got your yacht out there, and you suddenly got some of the virus somehow got in there, through one of the underpaid people you got working for. You may be, you know, didn't get tested or whatever, where you're going to dock your yacht. You know, what are you going to do with it? Nobody wants it, you know, and they don't care if it's some exploited Filipino cook in the kitchen, Who gave it to you, you're stuck, you know? And so yes, there is an incredible democratic lesson experience and this existential moment Survival does depend on a very strong commitment to human justice. Yes, it does. You can't deny it, you know, it's there. And it's a lesson that came from the dark side of Mother Nature. Yes, again, our whole existence has been questioned now, you know, like, it's never been questioned, never, you know, this thing could get out of hand, it could come back, it could come back in a more virulent form, you know, and it's just one of the many things about the human condition that could deny that condition, snuff it out. And for the first time and my 84 years, or at least since I was two, when I was relatively conscious, and I've lived through a lot, I'm aware. I've been in prison in my very nice condo for five weeks now. My wife has a serious health condition. I'm of the age group does vulnerable and you know what? I don't want to I'm a more of an activist now. than I ever been. I don't want to see business going back to to normal. And however, let me pick up a really important point that I haven't stressed. You know, the point you made going back to your own NSA experience that I'd like to ask you. Questions about that. I think you put your finger I The main problem, the lesson of human experience I've been suggesting all along. Is that not given a you main enlightened road? Fair social justice road to human survival to security, security, people will take the dark side. I call Trump, his rhetoric, the rhetoric of Neo fascism. Because when he's baiting Mexicans, undocumented people, a women, whatever he's baiting, you know, when he's baiting them, that's the dark side of the human condition. People will go for the scapegoating. They'll go for the Worst serve. And that's why right now, a lot of people in China must think, Hey, you know, this use of the surveillance technology is a good thing. And let's just know when we shouldn't walk out in the street, and lets us know, when somebody approaches us who wasn't tested or had the illness, and the cops will come, and they'll arrest that person, and they'll make me go back in my house, or they'll find me. And that's going to be a very popular model. You know, and, and all of the lessons we learned from Snowden and Julian Assange, and everybody else Chelsea Manning, and so forth, you know, are going to be swept aside and people are going to say, bring on, bring on the coercive, totalitarian state only hide the course apart, bring on the internet. revelations of you what everything you do and what you read and what you think. So we can get the people who are not acting properly, not wearing the masks. Not doing this, we can fend the herd that way, you know. And so it is quite ominous. We live in a truly ominous time. But as I say it's also a time for education and organizing because there is a solution. And the solution is responsibility to the least among us to the most vulnerable, caring, helpful, what medical people are doing on the front line, being concerned, being considerate, and recognizing we're all in this together. So that's the most powerful argument against coercion and lock them up. No, take care of them, don't lock them up, treat them.

Danny Sjursen

Well, you know, Bobby brought up Eugene Debs earlier and, you know, you know, full well that he's, he's kind of my guy and you know, I wear a T shirt with this quote on it, and it's on my Twitter and I'm constantly you know, it's in my book, and I, you know, always talk about his famous, you know, at his sentencing when he said, you know, as long as There's an underclass I'm in it so long as there's a criminal element of it, so long as there's a soul in prison, I am not free. And over the years people have said to me, you know, come on, isn't that isn't that highly idealist? That's ridiculous. I mean, prisoners are bad and all this. And then but I think you make the point, you know, and I'm just gonna kind of leave it there. But you make the point look, so long as there's uninsured and poor folks, I can get the disease from them so long as there's prisoners, they can spread it throughout Rikers Island, and prisoners are literally trying to jump over the walls to get away from you know, to get away from this disease. So I think it really has brought out the inherent truth in that which which I think is incredibly valuable. So I'm gonna let Henry close it out. I know he has one more sort of, you know, future journalism question and then I think we will let you go so that so that these guys can get to there. It gets to their lives and Sam can come by and a little bit but Henry once you once you close this out.

Chris 'Henri' Henrikson

All right, um, I have a quote here I'd like to read first quote,"The columnist and bloggers of TruthDig charted eco system in irreversible decline, follow human rights crises and repression overseas and probe the erosion of American democracy by perpetual war, the disappearance of privacy rights, the abandonment of the poor, and a political system in Thrall to corporate Titans, gross polluters and Wall Street crooks. by pursuing these subjects with an intellectual rigor and relentlessness seldom found on the web. TruthDig has become one of the most critically acclaimed internet based news sites in the world." end quote. So, in watching your documentary, I was really struck by your discussion with William F. Buckley, and specifically the comment you made about communists being considered by Buckley in those of his standing as a quote unquote non person, among many other criticisms you laid out in that discussion of red baiting, House UnAmerican Activities Committee etc. I find the American penchant for ignorance like this particularly disappointing. But I'm more struck by your commitment to finding and even creating a home for these fleeing voices. I don't personally agree with much that comes from the mouth of Sam Harris. But I absolutely support and applaud your choice to publish his pieces from an atheist point of view. TruthDig has been an amazing resource for myself and becoming more skeptical and cautious in how I view the actions of the US government and most especially the lens through which I view my time deployed in the Middle East. Looking back on your time at TruthDig, what would you say is your greatest achievement? And what would you say is your greatest failure? Also, what advice would you give to myself and other budding activists and our desire to ensure that marginalized voices are heard

Robert "Bob" Scheer

Wow. My first response is to say that freedom is an accident. That the unfortunately the normal human drive is primarily for security for Safe Space should be part of a herd that is taken care of. I think that's been pretty well documented. I mean, we talked before about Cuba, for

instance. And I remember one very painful moment when I was in Havana. And I saw that Cuban society was not going in a direction that I welcomed. That because of the Bay of Pigs because of us hostility, I do blame it on US foreign policy. I saw that most people that I encountered or I know one To a stronger government, not a weaker one. And I remember walking with a friend of mine in Havana who was an American, and who had gotten very involved with Cuba early and he went there, he worked there and so forth. And some people came up asking for money, begging, and Havana in the Old Quarter. And he was angry with them. And I said, Why are you angry with them? I'm wanting to give him money. And he said, because we have programs, and they shouldn't be there and they're giving a bad image. And there are ways of dealing with this. And I said, but I said, but they don't feel it's working for them. And they don't know how to do it. They don't want to do it doesn't fit. And right now they are hungry. why shouldn't they express that? And this was a guy I grew up with in the Bronx. And he said, because it creates disorder and it hurts everybody else. And I thought, you know on a little tiny level discussion really what it's all about, you know, it goes to people in jail. If you don't see them as yourself, you think they were obviously guilty. You think their system gave them the right opportunities. You think they failed and somehow they're there. It goes back to an issue about how the anti war movement which we Weiwei have not discussed, should have treated people who were conscripts in the American army, say during Vietnam. And I thought always thought one of the false charges was that somehow the anti war movement in the main was hostile to returning vets. And I bet if someone could do a really good study of that, you'd find that whatever hostility there was about baby killers or something came from Asian provocateurs, because in my memory and my activism, I know Jane Fonda and Tom Hayden started two coffee shops. Near faces to reach GIS. I know that in the work that we would I ever did. There was a recognition that these people who were even when they were volunteers, let alone the draftees were trapped into a system. And that if you wanted to really understand what was going on, you had to get inside their experience their had their knowledge base, who they were, and that is true of the homeless issue was true of prisoners. That's true of understanding people of a different gender, sexual preference, raise background was so flawless and the way we ignore that and divide and conquer is given to us by people of power to marginalize anyone who is expressing opposition and saying it's not working for them. I know. Danny alluded to the way I felt whatever was in the Bronx to people is that nylund? You know, there was religious differences and ethnic differences and so forth. And and so this is not something new it happens on every level. And and I think what has to happen is to recognize a sound. It's not just what Danny said, yes, if they get sick, it hurts us. But if they get sick, somebody that is just like us is hurting. If they get sick, somebody a son, you know, or cousin or something, or father is hurting. And I know in that movie, there's a reference because my father took me down to the Bowery in New York to show me the homeless out of work, people of that time of the depression. He didn't take me out down there to say If you don't work hard, you'll be just like them. Because he was of the left he was to dub the rights. And he didn't tell me they had the wrong skin color or the wrong religion, or the wrong thing. He said they are a consequence of failed policy. They are a consequence of disproportionate power in the society. They are a consequence of moral indifference, contempt, immorality, and the society. And I think the positive thing that is happening here now, picking up on the earlier point is that the virus reminds us not only have

we got to worry about the homeless person, because they'll give us the illness. But the virus reminds us first of all, most of us are trapped in our homes somewhat trapped in better accommodating homes with a backyard and others are trapped in more crowded homes where keeping six feet or not going out to get food is more problematic. You know, my own one of my son's works, and a store selling food and has to wear a mask is at risk, but also brings us food keeps us going. So I think yes, major Danny's right, we've been reminded of our own vulnerability, that we are the natives that are being hurt by the genocide or whatever, the scourge and we are vulnerable. But also, I think it reminds us a little bit about what other people endure all the time. The fear the illness, the risk all the time to crime, the lack of services, you know, not getting the ventilator when they need it not getting the medical treatment when they need it. So it is a reminder To have our common humanity. Now let me get to the TruthDig hot potato that you handed me. Ah, and we are going through troubles, so TruthDig and there will be court sessions and so forth. So I'm really not at liberty at a honest way, full way full way I want to be honest to discuss it. But I would say TruthDig like ramparts. Like, when I was able to do good work at the LA Times, when I was able to do good work, even playboy, whatever ones criticisms of it, you know, I could do some good interviews, some good articles, and so forth. I don't think that freedom even though you have a constitution and limited power, that freedom can ever be assumed as the natural course of things. It is just too easy to find reasons to snuff out individually Freedom to regarded as a threat, you know, fire in the theater to talk about why Yes, it's a wonderful idea, but we can't do it right now. Now you guys are from the military. You know, the military is built on the idea that individual expression, and thought is a threat to humanity and to the mission. That's the whole idea of military. I remember in my own fight with my draft board, where I remained eligible for the draft until I don't know what the age was 3536 was I said, I wasn't a draft resister. I said, I want to go in. I believe there are justifiable wars. I willing to serve. But I want to tell you, I believe in the Nuremberg principle, if you give me an order, that's immoral, I will not follow it. I will not commit a war crime. On that basis. They didn't want to adjudicate it. They didn't want to trial. But on that basis, I was held in limbo, and I seem to be For a long time, they almost every year, when I was a graduate student, I was living in the Bay Area, I had to go to the Presidio, they usually pick some horrible time at 11 o'clock at night or keep me there until three in the morning. I asked me what this meant, and Was I a psychiatric problem. But I think the issue is pretty clear. And it's not just in the military, all functioning societies. Hold out a bribe. The bribe is we can do more for you. We can make light this is what was happening that night in Havana. We can make life easier for you better for you. You don't have to see a homeless person yelling incoherently. And you don't have to be reminded of poverty. You don't have to be confronted about the consequences of waging these wars that you treat as a video game. You know, we have a bargain to be made with you that we will provide and this is what those dystopian novels are all about. We will provide you with order and toys and and ability to relax and be secure and be admired and flattered and everything else, if you stop your questioning at the border of national security, of law and order of safety, real or imagined, dealing with the enemy real or imagined, and if you follow our rules, we will create this grand illusion of individual freedom. And this goes back to the founding of the society. After all, we had urban poor, who protested and they were thrown in jail. You know, we had slaves who tried to find freedom and they were hung from trees, you know, and going up right through

segregation, which after all, is not ancient history is happens now in small towns where you have a bullying show If it happens in big cities, we have a racist police force, you know happen in, you know, in the Midwest center happens in the New England states. So basically, the exercise of freedom is always an exercise of contradiction using spaces available going through that light coming through that crack and everything, of taking advantage of opportunities to express taking risks. And when I was doing TruthDig, I diluted myself with the statement I would tell audiences freedom of press leaving says is guaranteed only to those who own one. And I own half of one now. Well, it's heard that was not quite the case, or we'll have to see to what degree that was the case, but that's been true wherever I've been. I had a lot of freedom at the LA Times. I got It interview, George Walker Bush and I got to interview Richard Nixon and a lot of people, but at a certain point, that freedom was not so convenient to the Chicago Tribune organization that had taken over the LA Times. It was inconvenient, or they didn't want it wasn't part of their mix. Or maybe they didn't like what I was saying about media concentration, and they were trying to buy the papers so they could also get the local television stations, or maybe they didn't like is one of them. The Polish publisher they appointed said, I never wrote a word that he liked. So probably that was my criticism of the Iraq War, from the very beginning. And that was probably the main reason I was pushed out. So anytime you find yourself in a situation, as a citizen, in any society, on documented or documents that I'm saying, You're present at any society, you're going to be faced with a choice. To what degree do you speak up for the largest social good, when it's inconvenient to your personal career, or well being? And you guys know this better than I do. I know more about major Danny but certainly he experienced that when he was an Officer Commanding troops. He's written about it quite eloquently. But we find that in every aspect of our life, we find that when we're teaching in a school, and we feel we want to raise something with the school or the students that's inconvenient to their assembly of power. And it boils down you know, and a, and a society that has the trappings and the illusion of freedom, which is certainly still does. The trappings and illusions are most of the time you can avoid the confrontation, that being a free independent member of that society demands. Most of the chakras You know, they're not going to pull out your fingernails, they're not going to smash your testicles, probably, unless you're black and poor, and in the wrong jail cell, and they can get away with it. But most of the time, it'll be a kink in your career curve, or it'll be maybe a loss of jobs. You know, there are people who resigned from trading, I didn't resign, they went on strike at TruthDig. And they ended up losing their income their job, and they needed those jobs. You know, and so, you know, I respect that. But I know those are difficult choices. You know, you got a child you're taken care of, and you got to feed and you got rent to pay, and your fellow workers go out on strike that up and so all over the world, are they challenged or wrong? And you take a stand in solidarity with them. And you know, it doesn't work out well and certainly not necessary. short run, maybe not in the long run, you know. And so, my view about TruthDig is my view about any publishing venture I've ever been involved with. Freedom of the press, not only is guaranteed only those who want one, the only way you have freedom of the press is of people will take advantage of whatever cracks there are in the system, and speak truth to power. And it'll cracks and the mechanisms will be different. Sometimes there'll be somebody screaming on a street corner, sometimes it'll be a high school teacher, taking, risking their career and talking to their students honestly, get him to read major Danny's book if it ever gets

published. I hope it does. He's writing another one on patriotism, which is going to be published by Hay Day press. I hope it's used widely in the schools. Some teacher who uses major Danny's book On patriotism questioning, as George Washington did as right. Eisenhower did questioning the limits or the contradictions of the slogan of patriotism. That high school teacher might get fired for a signing major Danny's book. And, you know, there it is. And when I think about TruthDig, what the thing that gave me greatest pleasure was being able to print the words of a major daddy of Julian Assange of a Chelsea Manning will bring people that remind them of what was going on. The greatest achievement of TruthDig was Kevin Tillman, the guy who served alongside his brother Pat Tillman, and Afghanistan, first in Iraq and Afghanistan, and does nothing and it also put us on the map. It also was the main thing that brought TruthDig to the attention of a large audience and helped us When five or six websites I lost track and a lot of other awards seem leading press awards, sigma Delta Chi awards, cartoonists, Mr. Fish one twice and I won from my columns on the housing meltdown on the failure of the Obama administration. columns, articles at Chris Hedges and you know a lot of people wrote Ellen brown the good stuff on the banking I could go down the list but the most significant thing we ever printed was by Kevin Tillman who was played in the his brother with the famous football player played for the card Arizona Cardinals and Arizona State before that, but Kevin was in the Cleveland Indian farm system as a baseball player. They both signed up after 911 because they said people who have careers and have other jobs should also volunteer they come from a family of people who has served in the military They said they had an obligation to go. They didn't believe in the Iraq war. They were independent thinkers, but they were said to join the Rangers. They didn't take a commission position and be used as a recruiter, which is what the Pentagon wanted. No, they said, we're going to go in and, you know, and take this training. They were sent to Iraq, they didn't believe in it. They were involved, and the so called freeing. You know, Jessica Lynch, which was one of the big lies about the whole iraq war, this truly heroic woman, but she wasn't heroic, because she fired her gun and Rambo style. That was a pentagon concocted story. Actually, two people the Iraqi hospital had been very courageous, courageous in helping her and she was incredibly courageous in writing an honest book about it. Jessica Lynch, everybody should read that book. You know, I wasn't the female Rambo, but she was a true hero. Telling the truth about our experience. Well, Pat and Kevin Tillman were involved. And that suppose it freeing up Jessica, when in fact, you know we had started the US has stopped her ambulance had had her everything else had just started the whole thing. And then they were sent. They didn't believe in the Iraq war but they were there and then they were sent to Afghanistan before they went to Afghanistan. They were told you don't have to go. We'll use you for recruiting, we'll put you in this position. You'll go on television. They said Bo. We're not going to do it do that. And Pat Tillman and Kevin Tillman were actually influenced by Noam Chomsky dead, read his work, and even carried a couple of his books with them and share them with his fellow g eyes. I know a lot about this story, because when I was still a columnist, at the LA Times, I started looking with suspicion at the narrative that was being presented about Tillman's death denial that it was from friendly fire. meaning your own side, but rather, you know, spinning another heroic without he was a hero. And so his brother Kevin, but they were heroes because they were trying to do the right thing and risking their lives when they didn't have to. But nonetheless, I'll never forget the phone call. Oh my god. I'm gonna stop there. But

just to say that Mary tellement Mary Danny Tillman, your mother called me up to the switchboard operator said, I have someone who claims to be pets home, his mother on the phone, and she wants to talk to you. I thought she was calling to yell at me. You know if it was really her, it was her. She was calling from Alba dad outside of San Jose and she was calling to thank me. thank me for the call. She asked me if I wanted to see the papers. And because my wife was the deputy editor of the San Francisco Chronicle, I asked a great investigative reporter. I said, Can I bring her? And she said, Yeah, of course. And then we spent a lot of time and my wife ended up writing a book with Danny Tillman boots on the ground. People should read that book about the death of Pat Tillman and Kevin Tillman. When we started, we had TruthDig Kevin Tillman was willing to write a piece for us on remembering Pat Tillman, and what had been done to him and that became the most important thing TruthDig ever read, ever. And yes, I'm glad that we had the opportunity to print that story. I'm always shocked that we're not in business now. No. And I think the primary reason we're not going to go into all the details. But I think we dared. And I think I had to push back pretty hard on the new Cold War, of blaming the Putin for somehow Hillary's defeat and the rise of Donald Trump. And that became a big issue. Are we going to try to try to do reporting? Or are we going to carry water for the Democratic National Committee and blame Julian Assange and blame putin or something for giving us the papers? That gate told us what Hillary Clinton said in her speeches to Goldman Sachs, which only got revealed because they were made available by WikiLeaks, and we're going to learn what Podesta did at the Democratic National Committee to undermine Bernie Sanders. I thought that was great journalism. I thought we had a right to know. And I would as editor in chief of TruthDig. I refuse to sign on to the narrative that somehow Trump is president and because of Trump And Assange and Putin. I think it's nonsense. I think Trump got to be president because Hillary Clinton had a deaf ear to the pain and suffering of so many Americans. And Trump was able to exploit it. And to engage in old fashioned McCarthyism and red baiting to explain the last election, I thought was lousy journalism. And while some of our columnist embrace that, and I never censor them, the real issue was that as a publication, we were open to questioning that narrative. And actually, it's the thing that we did at TruthDig in many ways, most proud of that we did not join the chorus of, of MSNBC, and, you know, blame all the problems of the country on on Russia gates, but that I felt we had a right to an obligation today, Charles, and I do think that became the real issue. So there it is.

Danny Sjursen

Well, Bob, you know, I started reading TruthDig and we'll kind of close with this in, in Afghanistan, quite frankly. I mean, so we're talking 2011 you know, long before you knew me or I knew you are you would have ever heard of my little, you know, sandbagged life that I was leading and, and it was clear Even then, you know, before Russia gate before that, it that that TruthDig was going to was going to do journalism, right, rather than then carrying water. And it was, it was really incredible for me, when you when you did take me on to do some writing for TruthDig I was just honored because I had been a reader first, you know, which was really incredible. And, you know, I appreciate you taking so much time with us today and we covered so much great material and don't you know, he kept saying, you know, I've gone on too long.

You know, this is stuff people need to hear and I'm glad that you're right. The Internet does Give us this space on the podcast to do it. But uh, you know, I know that whatever you do next is going to be important. You're doing check out listeners, shear posts, comm Boston, you know, doing some writing and posting some writers on his own blog and site which is picking up some good stuff and not not just mine. And then also the sheer intelligence podcast check that out. And, and Bob, you know, the thing that strikes me about you that I'll end with as I thank you is that in the above the full documentary, it's clear to me that it's probably almost harder for you to be on the side that you are answering the questions right now, because you probably have 1000 questions for us for another time, and maybe you'll have some of the guys on on the podcast but you said everyone has a story, and that you never thought that powerful folks story was more important. And hearing you talk about Kevin Tillman hearing you talk about your parents or the People begging in queue, but it really doesn't matter. You've always cared about the story that makes you a real journalist. And to me, a real human being. And and I don't say that lightly. And so I'm just thankful that I got to know you and that you agreed to give some time to us and I know that our listeners gonna appreciate it. So Bob, I just want to thank you one more time for coming up.

Robert "Bob" Scheer

Think Okay, and thank you guys. You know what Ron Kovac always says I never fully understood it. Remember, he's told you major he said I thank you for your service.

Danny Sjursen

Yeah, yeah, I would it blew my mind when he said that. Yeah,

Robert "Bob" Scheer

you know, and I Ron Kovac, let me just end on this. The reason I really wanted to talk to you guys not to romanticize it or anything else. But Ron Kovac is the most exceptional human being I've ever met in my life. Bar, none. bar none. You know, and to see him in prison really and his frozen three quarters of his body What he's been through and I'm not talking about the movie, I met this guy. When I first met him at a vest for peace rally, we ended up at the graveyard in Westwood, veterans cemetery. And then the whole crowd left, and I was there with Rob Kovac in his wheelchair. And this is before the movie was made. I think it was 1970. And we just sat there, way late, you know, there were, I guess, any caretakers. We were there for hours. I don't know how we even got out of there. And it was the single most moving experience in my life. And what it brought home is, you know, it's not a chess game. It's not a video game. It's not policy wonks. It's not talking heads. It's not scoring points, you know, it's not one upmanship. But decisions that are made not just about war on peace, but certainly most definitely about war and peace, but about the economy, about health care about everything, have this dramatic effect, powerful, crushing, brutalizing effect on human beings. And the whole point of journalism, the whole point of guaranteeing the sanctity of journalism, and not attacking it the way Trump does. You can attack individual stories is your right. But the the craft of journalism, the obligation of journalism, and the slogan I use is to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable, we don't even know who said that originally. But the power of journalism and that's what you guys are

doing right now. However you do it is basically a redress of grievances. And to remind People, whether it's through their apathy, or they're selling out, or they're going along with the powerful of the consequences of this thing called policy, of politics, of decision making. And that is a guy like Ron Kovac bless him, and his courage and everything that is right now, you know, trying to survive in Redondo Beach, you know, in this crisis, how to hell is he getting food is the person who has to yank him out of his wheelchair and put a crane and lift him into his bed going to show up or not show up. Maybe he's got the virus, maybe the VA forgot about him. That's what this war peace discussion boils down to is Ron Kovac and that's what's so great about what you guys are doing. And I want to say Chris, I wonder I barely person I know is major Danny I hope to get to know the other you other guys But you have been, for me the first person really, since Ron Kovac to understand that consequence actual conveyance. I shouldn't say the only one to understand I'm sure plenty people do. But to take on the obligation, just spite, or maybe because of your privilege West Point, position, your rank as a major. You are laudatory treatment in certain circles, if you just went with that, and going back to be a teacher, and to my mind that you felt as a teacher, and as a writer, you had an obligation to talk about the true consequences of this so called policy of this chess game of this video game. I can't tell you how I just can't express this strongly enough. So again, another long spiel, but thanks for giving me the opportunity. Take care

Danny Sjursen

Thanks, Bob. I appreciate it. And hopefully we can do it again soon.

Robert "Bob" Scheer

Hopefully the situation will get better and we won't have to do it again soon.

Danny Sjursen

Yeah, hopefully I'll be out in LA. Take care. Talk to you soon. Bye bye